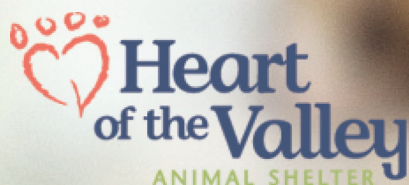


have a *Heart*

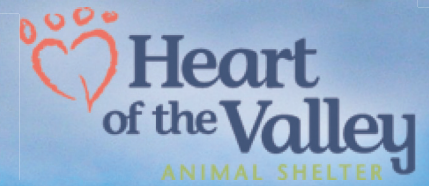
Support your local animal shelter.

- AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY
- CONSIDER ADOPTION
- SHARING YOUR HOME WITH A NEW BEST FRIEND
- PREVENTING HOMELESS KITTENS IS A SNAP
- PAWS IN THE VALLEY
- FOSTERING MAKES A DIFFERENCE
- GET INVOLVED - VOLUNTEER!

Brought to you by:



At the *Heart* of Our Community



More than 10 years ago, a group of animal lovers envisioned a shelter where homeless dogs and cats could be cared for in comfort and security while they waited to go home. The old animal shelter building was outdated, no longer met the community's needs, lacked proper ventilation system and housed animals outside in all types of weather. The leadership of the Humane Society of Gallatin Valley and the Heart of the Valley Animal Center merged to form

the Heart of the Valley, Inc. and collaborated to construct a state of the art animal care facility to better serve the Gallatin and Madison valleys.

In the fall of 2007, the Heart of the Valley "Anderson Animal Center" opened its doors, welcoming the public and the animals to this community's animal shelter. The first dog to arrive was Puma who had lived at the previous shelter for several months – we were able to tell the story of the journey from the old shelter to the amazing new facility through her eyes. Puma was harder to place because she was young, energetic and untrained; she needed a family that could give her lots of attention, training and exercise. After taking care of her for several years in the shelter, she finally went to her new home. **Her story proves that we never give up trying to find adoptable animals a home!**

But Puma's story with HOV continued after her adoption! Over the years, she came back for occasional visits; then last year, when her heartbroken family moved out of state and could not find housing with her, they entrusted HOV to once again find Puma a loving home. It only took two short months and Puma is now enjoying life in what her new "mom" lovingly refers to as the "Senior Coonhound Retirement Center".

As we celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the building opening, **we are proud to have cared for Puma along with more than 25,000 other dogs and cats!**



Heart of the Valley has proven to be an invaluable community resource. We have returned lost pets to their grateful owners and found new homes for grateful animals. We have also offered training and tips to pet owners, provided humane education to youth, and served seniors and military veterans with low or no cost programs. We hope you will join us and continue Heart of the Valley's tradition of excellence.

As we look to our future, we know this work is not possible without our community – our generous supporters contribute 80% of our operational revenue every year! After only 10 years, our story is still in its infancy and with your help, we look forward to continuing to serve our community for many years to come! Please help us continue our life-saving work and make a gift today.

Donate online at
www.heartofthevalleyshelter.org
or call our Development Team at
(406) 388-9399-x222



Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter Mission

The mission of Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter is to compassionately shelter the lost and surrendered pets of the Madison and Gallatin Valleys and to enhance the lives of people and companion animals through pet adoption and education.

Consider *Adoption*

Are you thinking about adding a four legged companion to your family? We encourage you to adopt a pet from Heart of the Valley!

Last year, we found new homes for 1,800 dogs and cats and reunited over 700 lost animals with their grateful owners! At any point in time, we have between 140-170 animals in the shelter, either waiting to be reunited with their families or being prepared for adoption to a new home.

In preparation for adoption, all dogs are assessed to look for indicators of how they will behave in a home environment – do they like dogs/cats/children, will they be active hiking buddies or couch potatoes. This helps our staff make matches between pets and potential adopters.

In addition, all dogs and cats are medically assessed, vaccinated, microchipped and spayed/neutered before they are available for adoption.

Bozeman is an incredibly pet friendly community – the average length of stay for adoptable animals at HOV is only 13 days for dogs and 28 days for cats.

All dogs and cats available for adoption are on our website. So, if you are looking for your new best friend and you don't see your match on the website today, check back tomorrow!

Visit the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter Website at: www.heartofthevalleyshelter.org



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Sharing Your *Home* with a *New Best Friend*



giving too many treats until you have your new dog eating their regular diet. Place the dish in the spot you want to feed them – ideally in a low traffic quiet and easy to clean area. Food should be left for about ten minutes and if not eaten or partially eaten should be removed until the next scheduled feeding. Scheduled feedings will help you assess your dog's wellbeing both mentally and physically. It is common for a dog not to eat when they are in a new place or are too stressed and overwhelmed.

- **Introductions-** Introducing your new dog to other animals in the home should be done with care and respect. Dog-to-dog introductions are best

Congratulations on your new four legged family member! Helping your new dog to adjust to its new home is an exciting time. It can also be a time of uncertainty and anxiety for your dog as they figure out how to live with you. With good planning and a predictable routine, you can make it easy for your dog to be a happy and integral part of your family.

- **Leashes-** Your new dog should be on leash quite a bit in the beginning. Leashes limit a dog's choices. Whenever your dog is outside of your house or fenced yard they should be on leash. You should be assessing their ability to be responsive to you when there is a change in the environment such as strange person or dog walking by. It is also good practice to leave your leash on your dog in your house to guide them away from unwanted behaviors and habits.
- **Safe Zones-** A safe zone is a place where your dog feels safe and restricts access to important or dangerous human items such as shoes, pillows, garbage. Examples of safe zones are crates or a gated area in the house. A dog's safe zone is like their bedroom and from the dog's perspective should feel safe, comfortable, and soothing. Items to include in their safe zone are soft bedding, interactive puzzle toy or a chew toy the dog enjoys.
- **Food-** If you have an adult dog you will want to set up at least two scheduled feeding times. Avoid

done outside in a fenced yard or on a controlled leash walk. If one dog is more assertive, have them follow behind the calmer dog. Once the assertive dog has settled down you can walk the dogs side by side and allow for some sniffs. Allow communication between the dogs to happen as naturally as possible so they can figure out how to balance their relationship. Dog-to-cat introductions should be done on the cat's terms. Your new dog should be on leash to prevent them from entering the cat's space to prevent chasing behavior. Make sure your cat has access to all its basic needs without having to cross paths with the dog. Allow the cat to make their own decision on when and how they want to relate to the new dog.

- **Go slow-** Your dog will look to you for direction, so keep their environment simple. This means avoiding environments that are overly stimulating such as a dog park or pet store retailer. Your new dog will be having many new experiences in your house, yard, and walk around the block that you do not need to take them to too many other places in the first week or two. Make it easy for your dog to make good choices and build trust in you. If your dog is excessively vocal, over emotional, or is not listening to you, the environment is probably too overwhelming and you will need to continue working on their social skills. Go slow, keep it simple.

Preventing *Homeless Kittens* is a *SNAP*

Each spring and summer shelters across the country are inundated with litters of unwanted and homeless kittens. Heart of the Valley is no exception. In 2016, 752 kittens under the age of 6 months old showed up at our door with no place to call home. This is why we take our commitment to reducing the number of homeless and unwanted kittens in the Gallatin and Madison Valleys very seriously.

To help prevent the birth of homeless kittens to barn and feral cats, in 2008, Heart of the Valley began our SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance) Program. Through this program barn and feral cats can be brought to the shelter for spaying/neutering, then returned to their caretakers to live out their days without contributing any more kittens to the population. Since the program began, HOV has spayed or neutered more than 1,800 cats.

Each week Heart of the Valley holds a spay/neuter clinic at the shelter. Cats are dropped off in the morning for surgery then picked up in the afternoon by their caretaker. Scheduling is as easy as a phone call. Our staff can provide tips on how to trap cats successfully and we also have traps available for caretakers to borrow.

Cats brought into the SNAP Clinics also have the option of receiving their Rabies and Distemper vaccines at the time of surgery. HOV has provided more than 1,000 vaccines to SNAP participants. Caretakers can also have cats "eartipped". This simple procedure is done while the cat is under anesthesia and is a universally recognized symbol that a cat is already spayed or neutered and should not be re-trapped.

All of this would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers, donors and staff who support our efforts to reduce the homeless cat population. Volunteers play a vital hands-on role in the clinics by scheduling surgeries, assisting with registration when the cats arrive, acting as a runner to shuttle cats from registration to the vet clinic, assisting vet techs in the clinic, observing the cats while they wake up from anesthesia, and giving caretakers post-surgical care instruction when they arrive to take their cats home. Donors play an equally important role in our success, as this program is funded by donations so that we can offer the spay/neuter surgeries at no cost to caretakers. And of course, our staff who

work tirelessly on SNAP Clinic days to make sure all the cats are given the best care possible while they are with us.

The World Spay Day Cat Reproduction Pyramid One indicates that one unsprayed female and her unaltered offspring can produce more than 2,100 kittens over a four year period. By working to reduce the number of homeless kitten litters, we are working to stop the over-population problem where it starts.

Visit our website for more information about the SNAP program www.heartofthevalleyshelter.org.



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Chris O'Rourke, DVM

Paws in the Valley

In addition to pet adoption, Heart of the Valley provides a variety of community based services:

- **Special Adoption Programs**

Pets for Vets: Military veterans serve our country with honor and we are proud to give back them. Pets can improve physical and mental health, and reduce the stress that comes with returning home after military service. Our Pets for Vets program offers fee waived adoptions for veterans and their families.

Companion Cats for Senior People: By waiving adoption fees for cats 6 months or older who are adopted by seniors (62 years and older) HOV hopes to improve the lives of our senior friends.

- **Behavior/Training Assistance**

We want the experience of adopting a shelter pet to be rewarding for both you and your new four-legged friend. We offer guidance to help with behavioral or training issues as well as puppy and basic manners classes. If you have questions before or after taking your furry friend

home, please call and speak with one of our experienced staff members.

- **Off-Leash Dog Parks**

We are happy to provide several off-leash options for the use of the community! All dog owners are encouraged to take advantage of our 16 acre Maxi Park, our two single use dog parks, and our agility course.

- **Microchips, Licenses, and Tags**

Providing identification for your cat or dog is the best way to ensure they are returned safely to you if they are ever lost. Members of the public are able to purchase microchips, Bozeman and Belgrade city licenses, and identification tags at HOV.

- **Children's Programming**

Birthday Parties: Looking for the perfect place to host a child's birthday party? Our community room is the perfect space! HOV hosted birthday parties include use of our community room space for 3 hours, supplies for two pet related crafts, a t-shirt for the birthday girl/boy, and an exclusive tour of the shelter! Check out our website for more information.

Pet Pals Summer Day Camp: Each summer HOV hosts 6-one-week session of our Pet Pals Summer day camp. Through a combination of humane education lessons, exciting guest speakers covering a range of animals, interactive games, and time spent with shelter animals, we teach our campers how to be good animal stewards. Registration for the 2017 Camp is closed but the 2018 Camp will open on March 1st, 2018.

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Fostering makes a Difference

The foster program at Heart of the Valley plays a crucial role in the general wellbeing of animals at the shelter. When volunteers foster, not only are they providing a loving and comfortable temporary home to the animal/s in their care, they are also freeing up shelter resources, including staff and volunteer time, that can now be dedicated to the animals not in foster care. Every animal at the shelter benefits from fostering, so we cannot thank our fosters enough for all that they do!

Our foster program exists to give kittens and puppies a chance to grow and to give injured, sick, or under-socialized animals an opportunity to heal. Foster care for kittens and puppies not yet old enough for adoption is definitely our biggest need at HOV, but there is also the occasional opportunity for adult animal fostering as well. Whether they need foster care because they are too young, need a bit of socialization, or for a medical reason; foster homes fill an

important role in the process to help them find loving forever homes.

Would you like to volunteer from home? Does fostering with HOV sound appealing to you? If so, you are about to embark on a life-saving adventure that you will never forget and become a hero to your foster animals! **We are always looking for more fosters for our cats, dogs, kittens & puppies, so please visit our website at www.heartofthevalleyshelter.org or contact HOV at 406-388-9399 ext. 204 for more info if you are interested.**



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Get Involved - *Volunteer*



Volunteers are critical to our success!

Each year, Heart of the Valley cares for thousands of cats and dogs and our volunteers help make that possible. The goals of the volunteer program at HOV are: to maintain the adoptability and high quality of life of HOV animals, provide operational support to the shelter, create shelter ambassadors to the community, and provide educational opportunities for all volunteers. In 2016, our volunteers donated over 14,000 hours of service towards these goals.

There are many volunteer opportunities available depending on your age and interest. We are proud to work with volunteers as young as 6 years old! Volunteers ages 6-15 participate in our Cat Cuddling program with a parent/guardian. Cat Cuddling volunteers have an important role in keeping our adoptable cats social by cuddling and playing with them. This helps with their adoptability and successful integration into their new home.

Volunteers who are 16 or older participate in our PAW Program, a hands on program which equips volunteers with the knowledge and skills necessary to make a difference in the lives of HOV animals. PAW program volunteers assist with daily cat care, canine and feline enrichment, operational support, veterinary support, and much more!

All volunteers must complete a volunteer application, attend new volunteer orientation, and receive hands-on activity specific training.

If you are interested in being a Heart of the Valley volunteer please visit:

<http://bit.ly/volunteerhov>

to complete your application and get started!





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Meet *Frankie!*



7 Years Old,
American
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Male

I'm Frankie, and I love people; especially ones that give me belly rubs and yummy treats! I am quite friendly and easily excited, so would do better in a home without small children as I would not want to accidentally knock any little ones over. I love going outside to walk or play, but I am also quite fond of sleeping! I really enjoy soft beds and would love to curl up next to you while you watch a movie or read a book. To meet Frankie, contact the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter at (406) 388-9399.

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